

Claims:

Sub
Q2

5

1. A digital system, comprising:

a memory circuit;

a first requestor circuit with a first memory access node;

a second requestor circuit with a second memory access node;

a scheduling circuit connected to the first memory access node and to the second memory access node and having a request output node, operable to sequentially schedule memory accesses to the memory circuit by the first requestor circuit and by the second request circuit;

10

a selection circuit connected to the first memory access node and to the scheduling circuit request output node with an output node connected to the memory circuit;

access mode circuitry for indicating at least a first access mode and a second access mode controllably connected to the selection circuit, such that both the first requestor circuit and the second requestor circuit can sequentially access the memory circuit when the access mode circuitry indicates the first access mode and the first requestor circuit has exclusive access to the memory circuit when the access mode circuitry indicates the second access mode; and

15

20

a size register for holding a size parameter connected to the memory circuit, the memory circuit being operable to select a first portion of the memory circuit in response to the size parameter when the access mode circuitry indicates the second access mode, wherein only the first portion of the memory circuit is operable for exclusive access by the first requestor when the access mode circuitry indicates the second access mode.

25

2. The digital system of Claim 1, wherein a second portion of the memory circuit not selected in response to the size parameter is operable to

be in a low power mode when the access mode circuitry indicates the second access mode.

5 3. The digital system according to Claim 1, wherein the selector circuit is operable such that a second portion of the memory circuit not selected in response to the size parameter can be accessed by the second requestor when the access mode circuitry indicates the second access mode.

10 4. The digital system according to Claim 1, wherein the size parameter is ignored when the access mode circuitry indicates the first access mode such that the entire memory circuit is operable to be selected for sequential access by the first requestor and the second requestor.

15 5. The digital system according to Claim 1, further comprising a clock circuit connected to the second requestor and to the memory circuit, wherein the first portion of the memory circuit operates synchronously with the clock circuit when the access mode circuitry indicates the first access mode and wherein the first portion of the memory circuit operates in an asynchronous manner when the access mode circuitry indicates the second access mode.

20 6. The digital system according to Claim 1, wherein the first requestor circuit is a host processor and the second requestor circuit is direct memory access circuit channel controller.

25 7. The digital system according to Claim 1 being a cellular telephone wherein one of the requestors is a microprocessor, further comprising:

an integrated keyboard (12) connected to the microprocessor via a keyboard adapter;

a display (14), connected to the microprocessor via a display adapter;

radio frequency (RF) circuitry (16) connected to the microprocessor;

5 and

an aerial (18) connected to the RF circuitry.

8. A method of operating a digital system having a memory circuit that is shared by a plurality of requestor circuits, comprising the steps of:

10 sharing access to the memory circuit between the plurality of requestor circuits when the digital system is in a first mode of operation;

selecting a first portion of the memory circuit responsive to a size parameter stored in a register, such that a second portion of the memory circuit is not selected; and

15 limiting access to the first portion of memory circuit to only a first requestor of the plurality of requestors when the digital system is in a second mode of operation.

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of sharing
20 access to the second portion of the memory circuit between the plurality of requestor circuits when the digital system is in the second mode of operation.

10. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of placing
25 the second portion of the memory circuit in a low power mode when the digital system is in the second mode of operation.